

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 2012
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Missy Kueht-Becker, Pam Groh, Shari Campbell, Kathy Duffek, Jim Pearson, Cheri Sylla, Joe Vitale, Mary Anderson, Ariana Grudzina, Sara Carpenter, Lisa Mclean, Faith Holley-Beal, Don Harris, Barb Holtz, Diane Ripple, Casey Langley (Safe Babies – Healthy Families), Ed Cohen, Sarah Matson, Judy Hickey

STAFF PRESENT: Eve Altizer

Missy Kueht-Becker called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Correct the spelling of Ariane Grudzina's name in the January minutes. Don Harris motioned to approve after that correction, and the motion was seconded by Joe Vitale.

Ariane Grudzina introduced herself to the group. She is formerly a risk nurse and replacing Mary Anderson as a supervisor at Health and Human Services, Public Health Division.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Joe Vitale stated there is no report, as they are scheduled to meet this afternoon. Dennis Farrell will fill in for Joe at the next couple of meetings.

Joe reported that there was recently an article in the paper about the rising cases of whooping cough (pertussis). Since October there have been 83 confirmed cases, which is very concerning. There are a number of children not getting immunized.

Joe asked the group to ponder the needs list. He advised keeping the needs list presentation to the Board short and simple. State the facts. That is what they want to hear. Next year's budget will be interesting. They saved money on budget with the repair bill last year, but that was a one-time savings.

SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY REPORT

Missy stated they are scheduled to meet this afternoon. They will discuss the function of how they report to us; that they are a subcommittee to CAFSAC. The SSAC membership consists of the majority parent members, having a strong insight to the services. Patrick Jauquet will attend our March meeting. Dennis Farrell will review the structure.

PARTNERSHIPS

Eve Altizer gave an update. She has been active in a parent support group and has noticed the numbers of participants is dwindling. Parents of older children are transitioning. She has been re-examining the dwindling support group and found that new enrollees are parents of younger children who have barriers and issues of meeting at night. They have a hard time picking the children up from school, having dinner, getting to a meeting, getting home late and having to settle the children for bedtime. It's too chaotic, the children are simply too exhausted and the experience to get to the meetings is not worth that to the parents. Therefore, the support group is missing a huge group of parents of younger children. They do offer childcare, but parents don't know the caregivers well enough to have complete confidence in leaving their children with them. The group is considering a mid-morning or lunch time meeting for parents, without the children. This 90 minute mid morning meeting time will be piloted in March at the Health and Human Services Building. Eve asked the group for their input and suggestions.

Missy suggested that Eve connect with Nichole Hunkins from UCP Respite. When they do respite they have trained caregivers, and maybe they could roll programs together. They do well with a variety of special needs. The support group could wrap into their Friday night respite group. The meet at the Schutze Building. Missy added that she likes the morning or lunch time idea.

Kathy Duffek shared that they have success when providing a meal. They work with a few churches to provide the meals. They have 30 to 40 people attending their depression group and the meal is a big part of it. Providing a meal is a big relief for the parents. The volunteer center is a good resource to find churches to help with that.

Eve said the children are school age and meet an institutional level of care. They are in and out of hospitals and day treatment. This pocket of parents is really struggling now. Barb shared that some time ago they tried a 4:00 pm timeframe for parent who work. They could come right after school and there was a meal provided. Eve is open to trying a number of different things. She will return with a report on the morning meeting trial.

Eve reported they have also been providing a crisis intervention training for law enforcement along with NAMI Waukesha. Their efforts are about diversion and avoiding unnecessary hospitalization and detentions. A week after the training, she heard from a Waukesha deputy about an experience at a family home when he took the time to sit down and meet with all of the family members, creating a diversion respite plan. He took the child to the grandparents' home for the weekend instead of to an institute. Eve received good feedback from the sheriff's department.

Kathy Duffek asked about doing the same training with probation and parole as they did with the police. Eve stated that it has been offered to them. They have done the training with the jail staff. There had been a lot of interest in Wisconsin and nation wide, but probation and parole would have to step forward.

Joe Vitale asked what numbers they're working with in the sheriff's department. Eve said no more than 15 or 16 in a week-long training. Joe asked if they were sent or if the training was voluntary. Eve said they were sent, but interested and invested in it. Joe said most of law enforcement training is black and white, and this training has great potential.

James reported the ARC has put together a training video to be used at roll calls. Some workers attend roll calls, but the videos are good for second and third shift presentations. Faith reported the police also do mandatory trainings on line at their convenience.

Another interesting project Eve reported has been partnering with the CCS folks at the Mental Health Center and coordinating the transition resource project. It's been a few years since we focused on transitional education. The goal is to have a guide for young people. Missy asked what the target group is, and Eve answered that initially it will be just the CCS folks, but they could bring others on board later. Cheri said they don't have a specific group of people in CESA, but she offered to help Eve with the project. Eve said the clients have basic needs to address, i.e. how to get to school, how to get health insurance; how to get to free clinics, how to find housing appropriate for someone 18 years old with mental health challenges.

NEEDS LIST

The Children and Family Services Advisory Committee will present their needs to the County Board on March 15. There is a committee working on the presentation including Diane Ripple, Sara Carpenter, Sarah Matson, Peter Slesar, Jesús Mireles, Judy Hickey, and Karen Villarreal. They have reviewed last year's PowerPoint slides. The verbal presentation will be less detailed than the PowerPoint slides. They have always had a warm reception by the board. Missy wants to be sure to give them the information they need, and she asked the members for any statistics and positive outcomes. They will either be included in the PowerPoint, or on a separate handout. The goal is to show our program outcomes, which have an impact on avoiding deeper end (higher cost) services. Missy referred to this as "prevention as intervention". Another point to make is the decrease in funding trends. If anyone has programs that have other funding streams which were cut, besides the county, please indicate and share for the presentation. Attempt to forecast deteriorating third party funding streams. Barb added that she's hearing of private foundations, grant funds, traditional pieces of money we had counted on, are drying up. Missy asked for responses by February 21 to have time to review before the next Needs Committee meeting, which is February 28. Missy gave example of the community block grant, which started as one amount and then incurred a decrease.

Joe Vitale stated the core presentation from last year was very good. He suggested they might want to put something in as to amount of time organizations spend fundraising to fill the gap in funding. If you're spending time on a bake sale, that's time that should be spent on other things. Missy agreed and added that they would do more fundraising, but with staff cuts, no one has time to organize the fundraising efforts. Also, Joe suggested offering positive things that they are currently doing. CAFSAC has some great ideas, collaborations, and efficiencies. The board and the county executive are very impressed that this group looks very hard at not duplicating, and collaborating/partnering.

Judy Hickey believes it would be good to show we are providing services throughout the lifespan – they are not targeting a small population. Their role is helping people be self-sufficient participants of the community. The group is working together, and this is a great message to the board. Diane added it is important to say we are proactively looking at how we can do more with less.

Missy urged members to be present in the audience that day. It sends a message that we're supporting one another and working together. Joe said do not minimize having CAFSAC members in the audience. Missy will send out the agenda including the time to be there.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaking of needs, Missy asked for ideas of speakers to bring to this group. We have some speakers, but we also have some months that we need presenters. If you have ideas, send them to Missy. She contacted the UW extension and the Stop and Yell program, but still need to confirm dates for them.

Barb announced that the Born Learning Facebook page is up to 18 likes. If she gets 25 likes, she can do more in Facebook.

Barb also said she got an email recently from a public defender (her daughter) about a pending bill, one they are talking about tomorrow in the State Senate and legislature. It has to do with some kind of step pay increases for public defenders and assistant district attorneys. They had always had comparable pay and benefits. The problem is the way everything set up now, public defenders and assistant district attorneys can only get increases if approved by State referendum; there are no more step increases. The bill is looking for something to be put in place to give them some step increases as time goes on. If you are inclined, Barb asked that you contact your legislators. Faith added we all have an investment in hiring and keeping quality professionals to do this work.

Kathy Duffek asked about the Public Hearing. Joe answered that it is scheduled for March 29. It will be held in the Forum Building, enter door #1. CAFSAC usually does not meet in the month of April due to the public hearing, and Diane asked if this means they will not meet in March. They discussed keeping the March meeting to review the needs presentation, which is that afternoon, March 15. It was agreed that CAFSAC will meet in March and not in April.

Missy announced that the Birth – 3 Bravado (a triathlon; running, kayaking, and biking) is scheduled for June 2. Information can be found on the web at bravadochallenge.org. They are able to take 350 participants this year. There will be some raffle opportunities coming forward as well. The evening before the event, they will be downtown Waukesha, at the Bicycle Smith, where bib numbers for registered participants can be picked up. Behind the Bicycle Smith, near the soccer field, the Born Learning portable trail will be set up for families to check out with their children before or after picking up their bib numbers.

Joe Vitale made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Barb Holtz at 9:31 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15, at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Human Services Center.

3-15-12
Approved